

A ride of respect

Motorcyclists make stop at Veterans Home

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Residents of the Iowa Veterans Home got a chance to enjoy a day outdoors while also checking out a collection of motorcycles while having a little conversation.

About 60 motorcycles and their riders made a stop at IVH on a ride across the country from Sacramento, Calif. to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

The 10-day ride is known as the "National Veterans Awareness Ride" and this is the third year the bikes have stopped in Marshalltown.

Jerry Conner from Winnetka, Ill. was one of the bikers soaking in the sun and conversation Monday. He said he learns a great deal from stops like this one.

"They really appreciate being remembered and honored," Conner said of the residents. "They like to talk about their home and their country."

Milo Anderson of Roseburg, Ore., rode a unique bike into town. Known as a "rat bike" it has hundreds of items pasted on it from stuffed animals to bird feathers to handcuffs.

He enjoyed the residents checking out his one-of-a-kind bike.

"If we can put a smile on veterans' faces if only five minutes, then there is a lifetime of memories right there," he said.

Bill Rakers, director of recreation at IVH, said the residents look forward to the stop by the bikers which is becoming an annual event.

"The guys on the bikes are nice to them and treat them real special," he said.

The group continued east and stayed in Davenport Monday night before the next leg of their journey.